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VANCE TELLS SOVIET ITS TROOPS IN CUBA COULD IMPERIL TIES

THREAT TO ARMS PACT

Church Sees No Likelihood of Its Passage If Force Remains on Island

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5 — Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance said today that the newly discovered Soviet combat brigade in Cuba was "a matter of serious concern" to the United States that affected this country's overall relations with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Vance, at a news conference, declined to say specifically what the United States wanted the Soviet Union to do about the brigade, whose presence has touched off a furor in the Senate. He said only that "I will not be satisfied with maintenance of the status quo."

Other Administration officials said the initial plan was to seek assurances from the Russians that the unit of 2,000 to 3,000 men would not be used for offensive purposes or to stir unrest in the hemisphere.

Arms Pact Seems Threatened

But after Mr. Vance testified late this afternoon before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it seemed that anything short of an all-out effort to compel the Soviet Union to withdraw the troops would jeopardize passage of the strategic-arms limitation treaty, now being considered by the committee.

The committee's chairman, Senator Frank Church, who is a supporter of the treaty, told reporters after the closed hearing: "I see no likelihood that the Senate would ratify the SALT-II treaty as long as Soviet combat troops remain stationed in Cuba."

The ranking Republican on the committee, Senator Jacob K. Javits of New York, said: "The issue of the Soviet troops could have a very profound effect on whether the treaty could be ratified or not."

The views of Senate supporters of the treaty may cause the Administration to revise its original plan, which according to well-placed officials fell short of insistence on total withdrawal of the Soviet force.

Mr. Vance said at his news conference that the brigade had probably been in Cuba since the early 1970's, but that its presence had not been confirmed until recently by American intelligence. The unit's longtime presence on the island in the absence of an American protest makes it extremely difficult to compel Moscow to withdraw it now, Administration officials said.

But the Administration has been concerned about signs of renewed subversive activity by Cuba in Nicaragua and elsewhere in the hemisphere. A high-ranking official said that if the United States did nothing in response to the Soviet presence, it would "send the wrong signal" to the rest of Latin America.

Mr. Vance, opening his news conference with a statement on the Soviet brigade, said, "We regard this as a very serious matter, affecting our relations with the Soviet Union."

"The presence of this unit runs counter to long-held American policies."

Mission of Brigade Unclear

He said the specific mission of the unit was unclear. He said it had no air or sea-lift capability that would allow it to be used as an assault force and that it was not in violation of previous understandings against introduction of offensive weapons.

Administration officials speculate that the primary purpose of the force is to provide Cuba with a symbol of Moscow's willingness to come to its defense in case of attack from the United States.

Other reasons advanced include the provision of a kind of Praetorian Guard to protect the Cuban leadership and to provide a force to guard secret Soviet installations being built in Cuba.

Senator Richard Stone, Democrat of Florida, asserted today that the Russians were building a new naval base in Cuba. Others have suggested that the Soviet brigade's mission is to guard a listening post used to pick up electronic signals from the United States and other nearby points.

Talks Sought With Dobrynin

Mr. Vance said he had asked the Soviet Ambassador, Anatoly F. Dobrynin, to return from his vacation in the Soviet Union as soon as possible to discuss the matter with him. But Mr. Dobrynin's father died last night and he is not expected back be-

who is acting in Mr. Dobrynin's place, discussed the Cuban situation with Deputy Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher, but no details of their talks were revealed.

Most of the remarks at the news conference were directed against the Soviet Union, but Mr. Vance later issued a statement attacking President Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Mr. Vance said that Mr. Castro was trying to shift the group of third world nations now holding a summit conference in Havana, "away from genuine independence and into a pattern of collaboration with the Soviet Union."

"This is not surprising," Mr. Vance said, "since Castro's own policies do not deviate from those of the Soviet Union."

Carter Meets Security Aides

President Carter held a previously scheduled meeting with the National Security Council late this afternoon. Later, Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's adviser on national security affairs, said the Cuban situation was discussed and "we will be talking to the Soviets on this subject and hope that this matter can be resolved in a constructive way and expect that it will be."

Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, briefed the Church committee today in a closed hearing on what was known about the Soviet force. It is said to have artillery, armored and infantry elements.

Mr. Vance said that the brigade included "motorized rifle battalions, tank and artillery battalions and combat and service support units." In addition, he said, there are 1,500 to 2,000 Soviet military advisory and technical military people in Cuba.

Mr. Vance made clear at his news conference that the Administration was particularly concerned about "the combat nature" of the brigade.

"I want to have further discussions about this whole matter," he said of his expected talks with Mr. Dobrynin, "including the purpose and intention of the presence of the brigade."

The seeming lack of tension over the situation is attributed to the fact that, unlike the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, no

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